

and a system that detects a trapped obstacle in the door of the vehicle. The legislation requires the establishment of a national criminal history background check system to enable local education agencies, or contractors, to check the criminal background of any person applying for employment as a bus driver. It requires the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Science to conduct a study of the safety issues attendant to transportation of school children to and from school and school-related activities by various transportation modes, including public transit vehicles. And finally, my bill establishes a pilot program for one school district in the country to assess the benefits of equipping school buses with shoulder harness mechanisms, similar to the equipment used by flight attendants on passenger aircraft.

My bill makes modest common sense reforms to ensure that the children who ride our school buses each day have the safest mode of transportation possible. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent during rollcall vote 210. If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 210.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUE

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I bring the attention of my colleagues to a very special event occurring in Atlanta, GA, next week. On the weekend of June 27, the Atlanta Braves and BellSouth will host a reunion and recognition event in honor of the legendary teams and players of the Negro Baseball League. Approximately 100 Negro leaguers from around the country, fans and friends will be convening in Atlanta to celebrate the remarkable achievements of an unheralded group of African-American men, members of the Negro Baseball League.

In this 50th anniversary year of Jackie Robinson's historic breaking of the color barrier in major league baseball, it is fitting and appropriate that Congress, citizens of Atlanta, and the entire Nation take a moment to pay tribute to the great African-American teams and players that made sports history. These were athletes who played with teams such as the Kansas City Monarchs, the New York Black Yankees, and the Baltimore Elite Giants. In the South, we had the Atlanta Black Crackers and the Birmingham Black Barons, to name but a few. Their daily triumphs were ignored by major newspapers of the Jim Crow era and their accomplishments have all but been overlooked in the annals of sports history. It cannot be denied, however, that the Negro Baseball League and the players that formed these

teams made immeasurable contributions to America's favorite pastime, our national sport, baseball.

The term "Negro Leagues" describes the all-professional, all-Negro baseball teams operating between 1880 and 1955, hundreds of which traveled throughout the United States during that time. The first Negro leagues started out in Kansas City, MO. Despite the hardships imposed by the Nation's rigid racial barriers, the Negro leagues managed not only to survive, but to thrive and grow. Even the prevailing myth of white supremacy could not deny the talents of these men. Author Robert Peterson, who chronicled the story of the leagues, perhaps summed it best with the title of his book, "Only the Ball Was White."

The league served as a showcase of talent and entertainment. The players were truly living legends. Many of the names of the great stars and the teams live on and form an integral part of our cherished sports history. The legendary Satchel Paige was a pitcher whose name is still synonymous with excellence. The league's Josh Gibson was one of the game's greatest hitters. Willie Mays, Roy Campanella, and the homerun king of all time, Hank Aaron, are all legends of the Negro Baseball League.

The significance of the leagues went far beyond the world of sports. The men who formed these teams were pioneers in nurturing and fostering self-pride among African-Americans. These sports heroes have left a powerful legacy that has enriched American history.

As some of the living legends of Negro baseball gather in Atlanta this month, I know my colleagues will join me in sending these outstanding men our appreciation for their glorious accomplishments and the enduring memories they have inscribed in the hearts and minds of millions of Americans.

IN HONOR OF BOB PRALLE ON HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Bob Pralle on his 80th birthday, June 29, 1997.

Bob Pralle is a remarkable individual whom I am proud to call a friend. His birthday is an excellent opportunity to recognize the tremendous contributions that he has made to the Orange County community throughout those 80 years.

As a trustee at Chapman University in Orange, CA, which is my alma mater, Bob has given his time and resources to further the educational goals of many individuals. To this extent, he has provided scholarships for college students, including myself, who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

Over the years, Bob has given freely of his time and energy. His contributions as a major benefactor for the Providence Speech and Hearing Clinic have increased the effectiveness of this organization. As a co-founder and major supporter of the Stanton Boys and Girls Club he has provided a place of recreation for young boys and girls while providing them with a sense of community.

His important gifts to society as a fundraiser and philanthropist for the United Way and nu-

merous other community charities in southern California have distinguished Bob as a generous champion of humanity. Time and again Bob has given tirelessly of himself.

Bob Pralle is not only very special to me and to the numerous organizations to which he has given time and service, he is also very special to his family and his loyal friends. In so many ways, he has given time, hope, and inspiration to so many people.

I would like my colleagues to join me in wishing this very special individual, Bob Pralle, a very happy 80th birthday.

COLORADO AND THE TENTH AMENDMENT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the benefit of my colleagues and out of respect for the Colorado General Assembly, to enter Colorado House Joint Resolution 97-1027 into the RECORD. As the necessary and long-overdue process of welfare reform moves forward, I believe it is essential that Congress pay special attention to our State governments. Colorado House Joint Resolution 97-1027 passed by a vote of 59 to 6 in the House and unanimously in the State Senate, and I believe my colleagues should consider the opinions expressed by the people of Colorado through the following resolution:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 97-1027

By Representatives: McPherson, Adkins, George, Kaufman, Pfiffner, T. Williams, Allen, Anderson, Arrington, G. Berry, Clarke, Dean, Epps, Gotlieb, Keller, Lamborn, Lawrence, Miller, Musgrave, Nichol, Paschall, Schwarz, Sinclair, Smith, Sullivant, Swenson, Tool, Udall, and Young.

Also Senators: Lacy, B. Alexander, Ament, Coffman, Congrove, Schroeder, Arnold, Bishop, Blickensderfer, Chlouber, Dennis, Duke, Feeley, Hernandez, Hopper, J. Johnson, Martinez, Matsunaka, Mutzebaugh, Norton, Pascoe, Perlmutter, Phillips, Powers, Reeves, Rizzuto, Rupert, Tanner, Tebedo, Thiebaut, Wattenberg, Weddig, Wells, and Wham.

Whereas, The federal "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996", Public Law 104-193, herein referred to as the "Act", was passed by the United States House of Representatives on July 18, 1996, and the United States Senate on July 23, 1996, and signed into law by President Clinton on August 22, 1996 and

Whereas, Article III of such Act addresses the several states obligation to provide child support enforcement services and mandates that the state adopt certain procedures for the location of an obligor and the establishment, modification, and enforcement of a child support obligation against such an obligor; and

Whereas, The members of the Sixty-first General Assembly recognize the importance of assuring financial support for minor and dependent children; however, the General Assembly finds that those procedures specified in the Act include such far reaching measures as the following:

(1) The necessity to implement the "Uniform Interstate Family Support Act", as approved by the American Bar Association and as amended by the National Conference of